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December 6th, 2011

House Natural Resources, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation Committee
Anderson House Office Building
124 North Capitol Drive
Lansing Michigan 48904

Chair Foster and Committee Members,

My name is Henry Schienebeck, Executive Director of the Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association (GLTPA). The GLTPA is a two state organization representing nearly 1,000 members in Michigan and Wisconsin including loggers, truckers, foresters, landowners, sawmills, OSB mills, paper mills, sportsmen and women and equipment manufacturer's.

The GLTPA would like to offer the following testimony in support of SB248.

It is recognized by GLTPA and others that there is an international push to set aside lands throughout the world and return them to their "Natural State". Documents included within Agenda 21 which were implemented by the United Nations and signed by President George W. Bush in 1992, include maps which clearly outline lands known as PLA's or Priority Wildlife Linkage Assessments. Linkage Assessment maps include large parts of Michigan and also includes every major forest of the United States and other countries in North America.

With that in mind, SB 248 may be the single most important piece of legislation to protect the freedom residents of the state of Michigan enjoy, while utilizing multiple use forests as we know them today.

Agenda 21 contains four key action areas which include: Agriculture, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management, Resources / Recycling, and Transportation / Sustainable Development. Agenda 21 also uses key tools for implementation such as; Biological / Environmental Assessments, Habitat Protection, Adding to Public Lands, and Constraining Private Land Use. I think we can all agree regulations in both the public and private sector have reached a point where they are having a significant negative impact on the economic freedom for most Americans. The Habitat Protection Strategy includes actions such as identifying "Core Habitats", defining free passage "Corridors", and using "buffer zones. I can tell you as a third generation logger the use of buffer zones has increased dramatically over the last 10 years and continues to increase as each Best Management Practice (BMP) and management plan is revised.

Let's go back to adding to public lands for a moment. Currently, the national ownership profile of Federal Land includes 31% of the U.S. landmass. Included in the 31% are three classifications which are: Class 1 = Fully protected (wilderness), Class 2 = Mostly protected (Nat'l parks, wildlife refuges) and Class 3 = Partial protection (Nat'l landmarks, USFS lands). According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce over 93 million acres or 60% of our national forest lands are currently closed to any type of management by federal statute of administrative decision.

Class 1 area acres have increased on public lands including state lands, which are 9% of the land mass, 5-fold since 1964 and are currently at 60 million acres. Roadless acres, which become prequalified for Class 1 status, are on the rise and we are also seeing reductions in multiple use access because of opposing viewpoints between stewardship and preservation.



The National Association of State Foresters in 2010 adopted what's called All-Lands Policy Platform: A Seven Point Plan for America's Forests. In the plan it states, achieving an all-lands vision for forests requires flexible state-based approaches informed by Statewide Forest Resource Assessments and Strategies. USDA and Forest Service leadership is needed to align government policies, increase federal investments, and strengthen partnerships that benefit all forests.

Notice that it says benefiting the forest and nothing about citizens or the economy? Do we really want Michigan's state forest system to follow in the footsteps of failed federal forest management? We can all agree there are lands that should be used as natural areas, but the question is how much is too much and how much cost can we afford to return and maintain those lands back to their so-called "Natural Condition"? It is GLTPA's opinion that until currently owned state lands are managed for maximum sustainable output, a land cap is necessary to balance our need for ecological benefit with the economic needs to meet social benefits.

SB 248 is much more than a land cap bill. It is about the balancing of ecological, social, and economic viability to provide a wealth of benefits in all sectors of Michigan's population. SB 248 is also about responsibly managing Michigan's natural resources at the local level, providing the best possible return for you as legislators and the constituents you represent.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 248 and I am happy to answer any questions.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Board and members of the Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association,

Henry Schienebeck
Executive Director

IMULATION OF THE PLAN TO PROTECT BIODIVERSITY

Defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity, the UN Global Biodiversity Assessment, the UN/US Man and the Biosphere Program, and the US Wildlands Project


 Reserves & Corridors
Critical Human Use


 Urban Buffer Zones
Highly Regulated Use

 Marsh Land

 Indian Reservations

 Wildlife Use

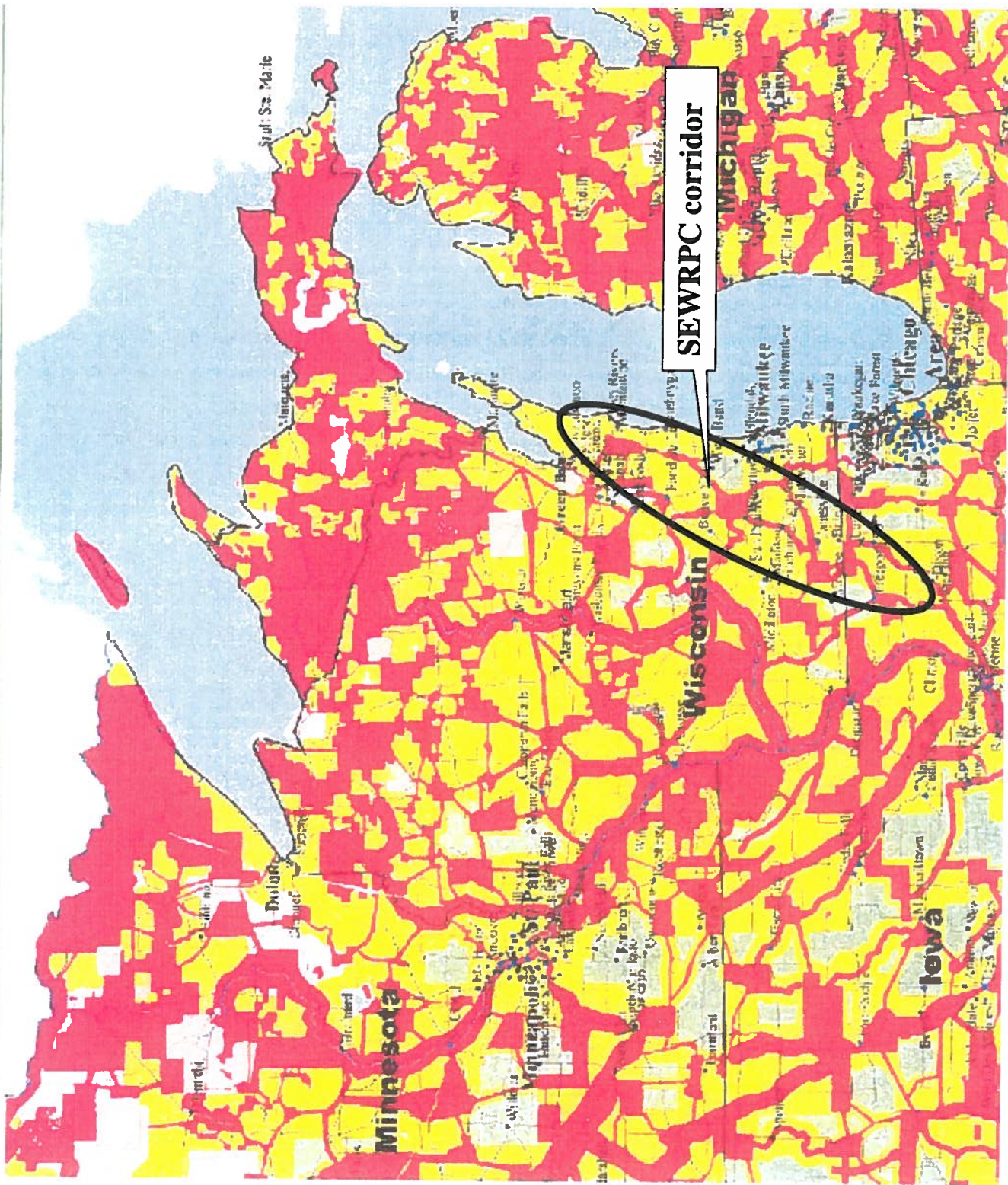
 County Courthouse
City & Town Centers

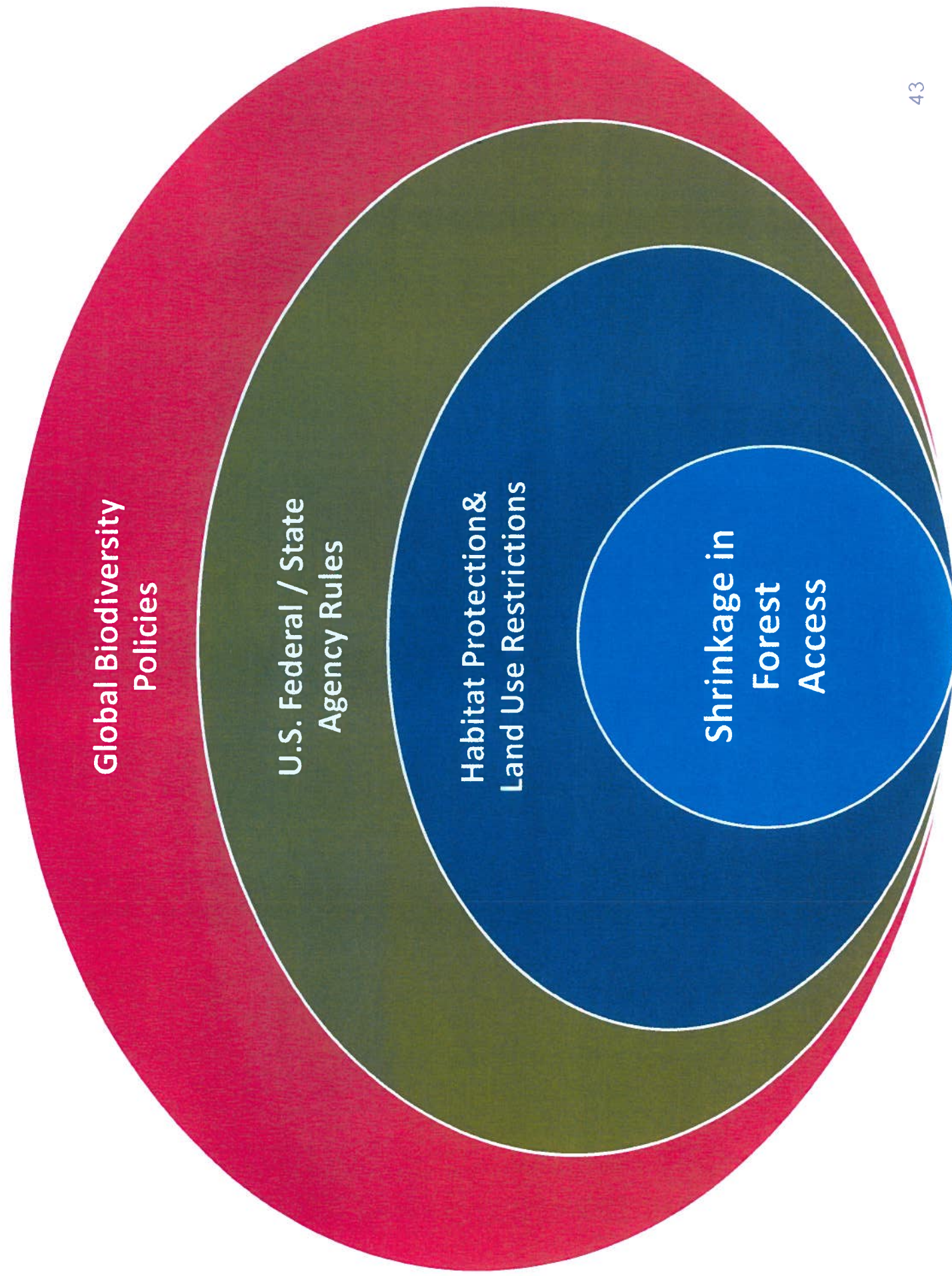
 Interstate & Divided
Highways

 Other Highways

This map is a simulation of the plan to protect biodiversity in the Chicago area. It is based on the Convention on Biological Diversity, the UN Global Biodiversity Assessment, the UN/US Man and the Biosphere Program, and the US Wildlands Project. The map shows the distribution of various land uses and resources in the Chicago area, including reserves and corridors, urban buffer zones, marsh land, Indian reservations, wildlife use, county courthouses, city and town centers, interstate and divided highways, and other highways.

Source: USGS, 1994





2011 Status of U.S. Forest Products Industry

Pulp, Paper &
Paperboard Mills

Employees Laid Off

Closed Saw Mills &
Paper Mills, 1989-2003

Closed Saw Mills &
Paper Mills, 2004-2007

Closed Paper Mills
2007-2010

PPRC

Pulp & Paperworkers
Resources Council

1991-2011

2011

Status of Worldwide Mills*



Existing Mills

-Pulp, Paper & Paperboard Mills

China*
[687 Mills]

USA

Enlarge & View On Other Side

As of March 2010

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